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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

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1. A method in a data processing system for setting a time out value, the method comprising:

identifying a path from a set of paths from the data processing system to a destination to form an identified path, wherein the identified path has a largest latency in the set of paths;

routing data to the destination using the identified path;

measuring latency for the data sent on the identified path to form a measured latency; and

setting the time out value using the measured latency, wherein the time out value is used to initiate a computer implemented process.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of setting the time out value using the measured latency comprises:

adding a period of time to the measured latency to set the time out value.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the period of time is a percentage of the measured latency.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination is a data processing system.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination is a router.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination is a switch.

5 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing system a switch.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying, routing measuring, and setting steps are performed in
10 response to an event.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the event is a periodic event.

15 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the time out value is used in the data processing system and the destination.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer implemented process is an error detection process.
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12. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer implemented process is a timer process in the data processing system.

25 13. A method in a data processing system for setting a time out value, the method comprising:

sending data on a particular path within a plurality of paths to a destination, wherein the particular path has a longest latency of within the plurality of paths;

30 measuring a time for the data to reach the destination to form a measured time; and

setting a time out value using the measured time.

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14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of setting a time out value comprises:

adding a period of time to the measured time.

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15. The method of claim 14, wherein the period of time is a percentage of the measured time.

16. A network data processing system comprising:

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a network;

a destination node connected to the network; and

a source node connected to the network in which a plurality of paths are present from the source node to the destination node, wherein the source node routes data to the destination node through a selected path within the plurality of paths in which the selected path has a longest latency period, measuring latency of the data routed from the source node to the destination node to form a measured latency, and setting a time out value for a node using the measured latency.

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17. The network data processing system of claim 16, wherein the node is one of the destination nodes and the source node.

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18. The network data processing system of claim 16, wherein the source node is a computer.

19. A data processing system for setting a time out value, the data processing system comprising:

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identifying means for identifying a path from a set of paths from the data processing system to a destination

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to form an identified path, wherein the identified path has a largest latency in the set of paths;

routing means for routing data to the destination using the identified path;

5 measuring means for measuring latency for the data sent on the identified path to form a measured latency; and

setting means for setting the time out value using the measured latency, wherein the time out value is used
10 to initiate a computer implemented process.

20. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the setting means comprises:

adding means for adding a period of time to the
15 measured latency to set the time out value.

21. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the period of time is a percentage of the measured latency.

20 22. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the destination is a data processing system.

23. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the destination is a router.
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24. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the destination is a switch.

25. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the
30 data processing system a switch.

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26. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the identifying, routing measuring, and setting steps are performed in response to an event.

5 27. The data processing system of claim 26, wherein the event is a periodic event.

28. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the time out value is used in the data processing system and
10 the destination.

29. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the computer implemented process is an error detection process.
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30. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the computer implemented process is a timer process in the data processing system.

20 31. A data processing system for setting a time out value, the data processing system further comprising:
 sending means for sending data on a particular path within a plurality of paths to a destination, wherein the particular path has a longest latency of within the
25 plurality of paths;

 measuring means for measuring a time for the data to reach the destination to form a measured time; and

 setting means for setting a time out value using the measured time.

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32. The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the setting means comprises:

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adding means for adding a period of time to the measured time.

33. The data processing system of claim 32, wherein the
5 period of time is a percentage of the measured time.

34. A data processing system comprising:
a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
10 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
memory includes as set of instructions; and
a processing unit connected to the bus system,
wherein the processing unit executes the set of
instructions to identify a path from a set of paths from
15 the data processing system to a destination to form an
identified path, wherein the identified path has a
largest latency in the set of paths; route data to the
destination using the identified path using the
communications unit; measure latency for the data sent on
20 the identified path to form a measured latency; and set a
time out value using the measured latency, wherein the
time out value is used to initiate a computer implemented
process.

25 35. The data processing system of claim 34, wherein the
bus system is a single bus.

36. The data processing system of claim 34, wherein the
bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

30 37. The data processing system of claim 34, wherein the
processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

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38. The data processing system of claim 34, wherein the communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter.

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39. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the

10 memory includes as set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system,

wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to send data on a particular path within a plurality of paths to a destination using the

15 communications unit, wherein the particular path has a longest latency of within the plurality of paths; measure a time for the data to reach the destination to form a measured time; and set a time out value using the measured time.

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40. The data processing system of claim 39, wherein the bus system is a single bus.

41. The data processing system of claim 39, wherein the
25 bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

42. The data processing system of claim 39, wherein the processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

30 43. The data processing system of claim 39, wherein the communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter.

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44. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for setting a time out value, the computer program product comprising:

- 5 first instructions for identifying a path from a set of paths from the data processing system to a destination to form an identified path, wherein the identified path has a largest latency in the set of paths;
- second instructions for routing data to the
- 10 destination using the identified path;
- third instructions for measuring latency for the data sent on the identified path to form a measured latency; and
- fourth instructions for setting the time out value
- 15 using the measured latency, wherein the time out value is used to initiate a computer implemented process.

45. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for setting a time out value, the computer program
- 20 product comprising:

- first instructions for sending data on a particular path within a plurality of paths to a destination, wherein the particular path has a longest latency of within the plurality of paths;
- 25 second instructions for measuring a time for the data to reach the destination to form a measured time; and
- third instructions for setting a time out value using the measured time.